

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, KS, US
SUBJ: KOREAN MEDIA ON US-RELATED TOPICS, MAY 3

REF: SEOUL 3666 (DTG 020836Z MAY 78)

1. TROOP WITHDRAWAL. TOP HEADLINE IS APPROVAL OF \$800 MILLION TRANSFER PACKAGE BY HOUSE INT'L RELATIONS CMTE. PRESS SPECULATES ON POSSIBLE JOINT SENATE/HOUSE CONFERENCE TO RESOLVE DIFFERING VIEWS. COMMENTARY/EDITORIALS NOTE WITHDRAWAL ISSUE UNDER INTENSE DEBATE. TONGA ILBO AND CHUNGANG ILBO SUPPORT WHAT THEY CONSIDER THE US MILITARY VIEW AGAINST WITHDRAWAL POLICY WHILE OTHER PAPERS TAKE MORE NON-COMMITAL WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE. AP CARRIES THE DOD FY 79 REPORT CONTAINING (975 MILLION FOR ROK MILITARY PURCHASES.

2. FUKUDA/VANCE. TONGA ILBO'S "INFORMED JAPANESE SOURCES" SAYS FUKUDA AND SONODA ARGUED AGAINST WITHDRAWAL OF EVEN
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ONE COMBAT BATTALION UNLESS ROK RECEIVES EQUIPMENT COMPENSATION. VANCE IS QUOTED, "ROK SECURITY WAS MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT" OF DISCUSSION AND WILL BE DEALT WITH IN DETAIL OF CARTER/FUKUDA MEETING.

3. KAL AIRCRAFT. PROMINENT COVERAGE OF UPI REPORT THAT FINNISH AVIATION DEPARTMENT HAS TAPES SHOWING KAL AIRCRAFT

TRIED THREE TIMES TO NO AVAIL TO CONTACT SOVIET FIGHTERS?

4. US/DPRK. MAJOR COMMENTARY IN CHOSUN ILBO TAKES POSITION ROK SHOULD NOT WORRY ABOUT US APPROACHES TO NORTH KOREA, BECAUSE 1) ROK AND US SHARE SAME FREE WORLD VALUES, 2) US EFFORTS TO INVOLVE DPRK IN DIALOGUE ARE PART OF US GLOBAL STRATEGY TO REDUCE TENSIONS, 3) US WILL ALWAYS BE ON THE SIDE OF ROK AND NOT THAT OF DPRK. COMMENTARY CAUTIONS AGAINST EXCESSIVELY OPTIMISTIC SPECULATION (BASED ON USSR ACTION IN KAL INCIDENT) THAT ROK CAN IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH USSR, NOTING JUST AS US WILL ALWAYS SIDE WITH ROK, SO USSR WILL ALWAYS BACK DPRK. (COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER COMMENTED VERY FAVORABLY ON THIS ARTICLE TO AMBASSADOR AT BREAKFAST MAY 3. IN HIS VIEW ARTICLE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED ROK INTERESTS AND REFUTED OVERLY OPTIMISTIC TALK OF RELATIONS WITH USSR.)
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